

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to the drawings, stating that the features of claim 9 are not shown. Applicants submit that the oil groove 9 is shown in FIG. 1 and described in the specification on page 5, last paragraph.

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 5, and 8 for informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5 and 8 accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 7 has been amended to further clarify the invention. Applicants have amended claim 8 to delete the broader range of limitations.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Schmidt DE 7605527*. Claims 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over *Schmidt* in view of *Ueshima et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,279,456*. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the highly oval mantle surface extends over the region delimited by the pin boss equator-pin boss zenith-pin boss equator. Support for this amendment can be found in FIG. 2.

Schmidt shows only a small gap or slit 11 between the pin bore 4 and a bush bearing 10 which extends just a few millimeters into the direction of the pin axis. Furthermore, Fig. 6 clearly shows that the gap or slit 22 extends from the apex of the pin bore 4 only about 45 degrees on both sides.

In contrast, the present invention comprises a highly oval design which extends nearly over the complete length of the pin bore 2 and extends from hub equator via hub zenith to hub equator, i. e. about 180 degrees. This highly oval mantle line 3 starts between the securing nut 8 and the oil channel or groove 9 and ends in the area of the inner ends 7 of the pin bores 2.

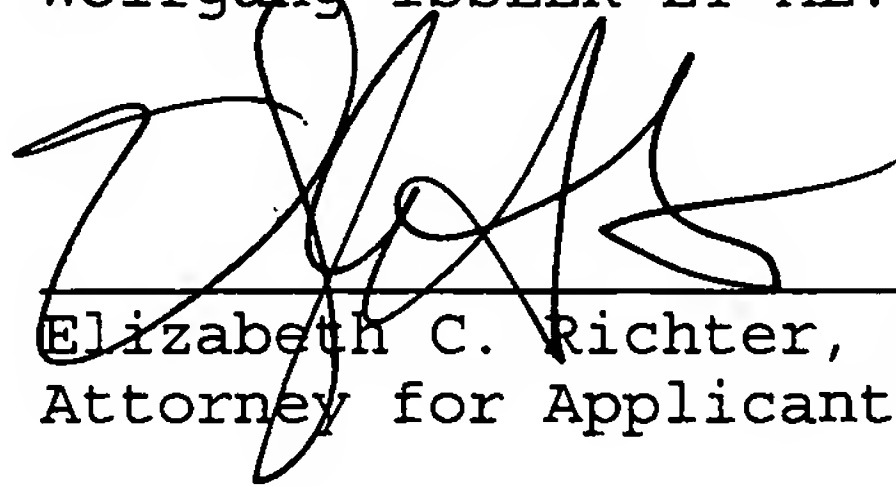
Schmidt says nothing about a highly oval mantle surface. *Schmidt* mentions only a small gap or slit. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are patentable over *Schmidt*.

Ueshima describes a recessed portion 15 which is arranged to remove an annular clip 13 out of a circumferential groove 14 more easily. *Ueshima* shows a small groove 12 within the pin bore, which is located axially to the axis of the pin bore in order to reduce stress on the piston pin 10.

Ueshima also does not disclose a highly oval mantle surface as claimed in claims 1-9. The features of a highly oval mantle surface extending to the inner ends of the pin bores 2 is not taught in either *Schmidt* or *Ueshima*, nor from a combination of the two.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-9 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

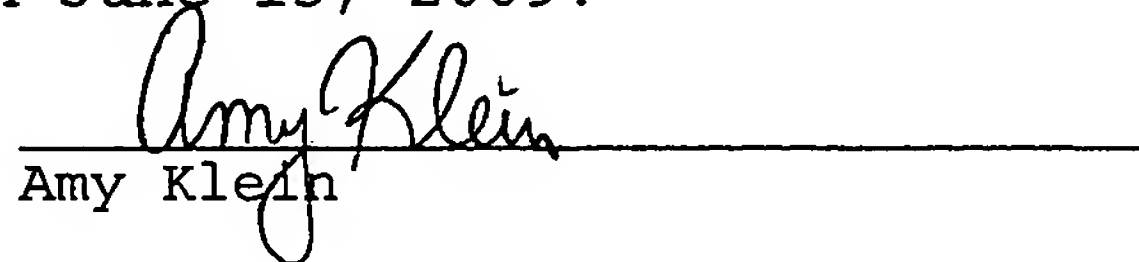
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